REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 10, 11, 16 and 17 remain pending for consideration in this application, with claims 10 and 11 having already been allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. A corresponding objection was made to the specification. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the specification fails to disclose a description of an R-chamfered portion. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The R-chamfered portion in question is disclosed, for example, in the specification, page 5, line 18 and in Figure 1A (reference 7). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Also, in the Office Action, claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aota, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,362) in view of Isaac, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,794). In view of the amendments to claims 16 and 17 and for at least the reasons set forth herein, this rejection is respectfully overcome. Neither of the cited references discloses, teaches or suggests the features of the R-chamfered and straight portions formed with the shank and continuously connected to each other, wherein the R-chamfered portion is located at the end of the shank, as is recited in the amended claims 16 and 17.

The R-chamfered and straight portions of the shank provide at least the following technical advantages:

1. Providing the straight portion to the second shaft contributes to the stabilization of the shape accuracy (inner-diameter dimension) of the projection formed with

1. Providing the straight portion to the second shaft contributes to the stabilization of the shape accuracy (inner-diameter dimension) of the projection formed with the first shaft. Thus, variations in the press-fit load when press fitting the second shaft into the first shaft can be reduced, resulting in stabilization of energy absorption. Note that a straight formation has a higher dimensional accuracy than a circular formation.

2. Since the R-chamfered portion is provided to the second shaft, the shape of the projection formed with the first shaft becomes R-shaped, providing an invitation or guide during press fitting of the second shaft into the first shaft, allowing not only easy insertion, but also prevention of a bite occurring during press fitting.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the inventions as recited in claims 16 and 17 are not unpatentable over a combination of Aota and Isaac. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____
Reg No 41514

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479